

hard work that all mothers engage in each day.

In the past week, presumptive Republican Presidential nominee Mitt Romney has said that he believes “all moms are working moms.” I agree. Unfortunately, if you are a low-income mother, the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program punishes you if you decide to stay home to care for your young child. Our laws should reflect the value of care giving work done by all mothers.

Current law does not count low-income stay-at-home parents who are raising young children as meeting the necessary Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) work requirement. Current law also bans States from counting these individuals toward that State’s work participation rate, which can result in financial penalties if not met. This effectively bars low-income parents who choose to stay home to raise their young children from access to the financial support of TANF.

The WORK Act would recognize that raising children is, in fact, work. The legislation would amend current TANF law to provide States the option to maintain a safety net for poor parents. Low-income parents could receive job training or search for work, or they could raise their children until they are school-aged without fear of being pushed deeper into poverty. This is the same option that wealthy families enjoy.

I urge all of my colleagues to show that they understand the importance of all mothers and the care they provide by supporting the WORK Act.

TRIBUTE TO ATMORE MAYOR
HOWARD SHELL

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 18, 2012

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to one of South Alabama’s senior statesmen. This fall, Atmore Mayor Howard Shell will officially retire from office, leaving a legacy of 22 years of dedicated service to his community.

A four-year Navy veteran of the Korean War, and a retired research and development employee for Monsanto Corporation, Howard Shell first entered politics in 1984, winning an Atmore city council seat. After holding the post for just two years, he was appointed to serve out the remaining two years of the late Mayor Patricia McKenzie’s term of office in 1986.

Mayor Shell’s characteristic strong leadership was a natural fit as the city’s chief executive. Consequently, he threw his hat into the ring, serving two consecutive terms as Atmore’s duly-elected mayor from 1988 to 1996. In 2000, he reentered the mayor’s race, returning to serve three more consecutive terms as Atmore’s top office holder.

With more than two decades of his life invested in leading the city he loves, Mayor Shell has made a difference in the lives of the citizens of Atmore. He has presided over local economic growth and, more recently, has led efforts to extend the city’s revenue base through new industrial and commercial recruitment along Interstate 65.

A dedicated and visionary leader, Mayor Shell has not only been Atmore’s strongest

advocate but also an active civic leader on regional, state and national levels. He has served on the National League of Cities’ Economic Development Board, as well as the Alabama League of Municipalities, the South Alabama Regional Planning Commission Board of Directors, and the Jefferson Davis Community College Board of Advisors.

As he prepares to leave public office, I join with all the people of South Alabama in extending our heartfelt thanks for a job well done, as well as our very best wishes for all future endeavors. May he and his lovely wife, Nannette, find ample time to enjoy their two children, five grandchildren and great grandson as they open another rewarding chapter in their already rich lives.

CELEBRATING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF GRAPEVINE-COLLEYVILLE INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 18, 2012

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the consolidation of the Grapevine and Colleyville school communities into Grapevine-Colleyville Independent School District (GCISD). This outstanding school district has excelled in educating thousands of students and has prepared them with the necessary skills to live a successful, happy, and meaningful life.

GCISD is a K–12 public school system located in the heart of the Dallas-Fort Worth Metroplex. The 54.1-square mile district consists of 17 traditional schools and two alternative campuses serving approximately 13,400 students and 1,750 employees.

GCISD has been rated a Recognized school district for 2010 under the Texas accountability system. In addition, nine GCISD schools achieved the State’s highest rating of Exemplary. For the ninth consecutive year, GCISD received a rating of “Superior Achievement” under Texas’ Schools FIRST (Financial Integrity Rating System of Texas) financial accountability rating system. The Superior Achievement rating is the State’s highest, demonstrating the quality of the District’s financial management and reporting system.

As of today, the average GCISD population of 13,400 students annually accomplishes a 95% graduation rate with 80% of those students enrolling in post-secondary studies. The students’ success is credited to the outstanding and experienced teachers and administration staff as well as an involved and supportive community.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the 24th Congressional District of Texas, I ask all my distinguished colleagues to join me in congratulating the Grapevine-Colleyville Independent School District on its 50th Anniversary. I am extremely proud to represent the cities of Grapevine and Colleyville, and I am grateful for the school district’s exceptional and enduring commitment to educating our youth.

CONGRATULATING MRS. SUSAN AND MR. STANLEY KRAMER ON THEIR 50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 18, 2012

Mr. GARAMENDI. Mr. Speaker, I offer my highest congratulations today to Mrs. Susan and Mr. Stanley Kramer on their 50th wedding anniversary.

Married June 10, 1962, Susan and Stanley have raised three wonderful sons, including my good friend Doug Kramer. Meeting in the summer of 1959 in Monterey Park, California, they quickly began dating and stayed together during Susan’s return to New York to attend Brooklyn College and Stanley’s enlistment and service in the Naval Reserve.

On June 10, 2012, they will have stood by each other and at the head of a rapidly growing family for half of a century. The world today is a very different place than it was in June 1962, but the love between these two people is unchanged. They are a shining example to all of us and I hope you will all join me in offering them congratulations and wishing them many more years of happiness.

TRIBUTE TO ARMY STAFF SGT.
CHRISTOPHER BROWN

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 18, 2012

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Army Staff Sgt. Christopher Brown, 26, who lost his life on April 3, 2012, while defending our country. We are grateful for his service and we will always remember his sacrifice for our freedom.

A native of Columbus, Ohio, Staff Sgt. Brown was assigned to A Company, 2nd Battalion, 12th Infantry Regiment, 4th Infantry Division, Fort Carson, Colorado. On March 20, he was stationed in Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

Staff Sgt. Brown succumbed to injuries he sustained when an improvised explosive device detonated near his dismounted patrol in Kunar Province.

Staff Sgt. Brown was on his third combat assignment since he enlisted in the Army in 2003. His previous service included a tour in Iraq from August 2004 to July 2005 and a prior tour in Afghanistan from June 2009 to May 2010.

Staff Sgt. Brown was awarded the Bronze Star, Purple Heart and Army Commendation Medal.

Staff Sgt. Brown was a devoted soldier who loved his country and his loss is shared by all our community.

On behalf of the people of Alabama and a grateful nation, I offer my deepest condolences to his wife, Ariell Taylor-Brown, and their daughters, Charlie and Dilyn of Mobile, their unborn son, Carter Christopher, and their extended family.

You are all in our hearts and prayers during this difficult time.